

AUGUST 10, 1976

FOREIGN POLICY UNDER PRESIDENT FORD

ANNCR:

AT THE START OF HIS THIRD YEAR IN OFFICE, PRESIDENT FORD HAS TAKEN A LOOK AHEAD AT WHAT HE BELIEVES HIS FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS--IF ELECTED IN NOVEMBER. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN FOCUSSES ON THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS.

VOICE:THOSE VIEWS WERE OUTLINED BY MISTER FORD IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY REPORTERS SUNDAY AND RELEASED MONDAY --THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF HIS SWEARING-IN AS THIRTY-EIGHTH PRESIDENT. UNDERSTANDABLY, IN AN ELECTION YEAR, MUCH OF THE INTERVIEW DEALT WITH DOMESTIC POLITICS.

(OPT) THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN WINNING HIS PARTY'S NOMINATION IN KANSAS CITY NEXT WEEK AND IN VICTORY IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS.(END OPT) BUT THE INTERVIEW PROVIDED A BLUE-PRINT OF WHAT MISTER FORD CONSIDERS THE PRIORITIES HE WOULD EMPHASIZE IN FOREIGN POLICY OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

AS MISTER FORD SEES THEM, THOSE PRIORITIES ARE SIX. ONE IS THE CONCLUSION OF A RESPONSIBLE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. PRESIDENT FORD INDICATED HE IS OPTIMISTIC ON THIS. HE SAID "WE ARE GRADUALLY NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES," AND ADDED HE SEES A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT IN WHAT HE CALLED "THE NEAR FUTURE." HE ALSO SAID HIS PRIORITIES INCLUDE GREATER PROGRESS IN MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE. TWO OTHERS ARE STRONGER ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC ALLIANCES. ANOTHER PRIORITY OF A FORD ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE GREATER HEADWAY TOWARD PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AND STILL ANOTHER, NOT NECESSARILY THE SIXTH, WOULD BE GREATER NORMALIZATION

OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING. IN ALL OF THESE AREAS, THE FORD INTERVIEW INDICATED, THE BASIC ELEMENTS AT LEAST ARE IN PLACE.

THOSE ELEMENTS ONE MUCH TO THE REALISM WITH WHICH AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY HAS HELPED AVOID THREATS TO PEACE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM HAS NOT RESULTED IN WHAT MANY AMERICANS AND OTHERS ELSEWHERE FEARED: THE DOMINOES WHICH, ACCORDING TO ONE THEORY, WOULD FALL, DID NOT. THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND AND INDONESIA HAVE NOT FALLEN UNDER COMMUNIST RULE.

IN EUROPE, COMMUNISTS IN BOTH EAST AND WEST HAVE GROWN RESTIVE UNDER MOSCOW'S LEADERSHIP. IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHILE THE LEBANESE TRAGEDY HAS SLOWED PROGRESS FOR PEACE IN THAT AREA, THE WAR IN LEBANON HAS IMPARTED A SENSE OF THE URGENT NEED FOR A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL-- A SETTLEMENT LONG FAVORED BY AMERICAN POLICY. AND IN THE THIRD WORLD, AMERICAN INITIATIVES HAVE IMPROVED THE CLIMATE BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED NATIONS IN THE SEARCH FOR A MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION OF THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. AN INSTANCE OF THIS IS THE IMPROVED CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA.

AT ANY RATE, PRESIDENT FORD IN HIS INTERVIEW LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT HE FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT HIS FOREIGN POLICY RECORD IS GOOD. AS A MATTER OF FACT, ONE ELEMENT OF THAT FOREIGN POLICY IS THAT IN ESSENCE IT HAS PURSUED AIMS ADVOCATED BY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS--REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC. AS SUCH THE FORD FOREIGN POLICY PROVIDES A BASIS FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION --WHETHER IT BE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC.